

## HARVEY CEDARS: Project to begin Friday

**PLAN: 16,000 tons of sand to be moved**

## Beach replenishment contract given to Md. firm

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HARVEY CEDARS — A Maryland-based firm has been awarded the contract to begin the preliminary phase of construction for the long-awaited beach replenishment project.

Environmental, Engineering & Construction Inc. will be handling the nearly \$500,000 project, which will bring some 16,000 tons of sand onto a four-block area of the beach between Salem and Cumberland avenues. Work is scheduled to begin Friday.

"The contract is for a relatively small section of beach; however, it may help in acquiring funding the 2007 budget for the LBI project as a continuing beach repair project," Rep. H. James Saxton, R-N.J., said in a prepared statement.

Friday is the last day of fiscal year 2005. Jeff Sagnip Hollendonner, a spokesman for Saxton, said starting work before the end of this fiscal year means the beach construction can be considered an ongoing project, which makes it easier to fund in 2007. There is \$5 million for the Long Beach Island project included in the 2006 federal budget, he said, but that has not yet been signed into law.

The sand will be brought in from Sahara Sand and Gravel, located at the border of Stafford and Eagleswood town-ships, for up to 45 days.

The entire Long Beach Island construction project could take up to five years to complete. Congress authorized the project for 50 years in 2000. After the initial construction is complete, the project is authorized for periodic maintenance every seven years or as needed.

"When finished, the entire project is expected to offer LBI protection with high, wide beaches, tall berms, grassy dunes and over a half-million feet of dune fencing," Saxton said. "We have been tempting fate and Mother Nature."

Borough Commissioner Judith Gerkins said borough employees removed benches and other potential obstacles out of the way Monday.

"Harvey Cedars has been looking to get this overall project started for a long time," she said. She added borough officials felt "very fortunate to be selected to do this preliminary project to secure future funding."

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